

APPENDIX E
OHIO DISTRICT MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY
PRESENCE/ABSENCE ANALYSIS OF *E. COLI* AND
TOTAL COLIFORMS USING COLILERT,
LARGE-VOLUME SAMPLES

- Mix, in an Idexx disposable vial, one packet of pre-measured Colilert reagents (Idexx) with 100 mL sterile deionized water.
- Label this bottle with the appropriate sample ID.
- Allow reagents to dissolve completely.
- Set up the membrane filtration apparatus.
- Filter the water sample (1-L volumes are recommended) onto a 0.45-µm filter.
- Remove the filter aseptically and immerse it into the Colilert reagent vial.
- Incubate the sample vial at 35°C for 24 hours.
- Observe the sample vial under fluorescence. Yellow is positive for total coliforms, and whitish-blue fluorescence is positive for *E. coli*. Dim yellow color and dim or off-color fluorescence are not counted as positive results.

